

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 9, and added generic Claim 19. Claims 2-4, 10, 11, and 15 were cancelled by the previous amendment. Claims 1, 5-9, 12-14 and 16-19 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 9, and 19 are independent claims.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the personal interview held December 5, 2006. The present response summarizes the understandings reached and substance of the interview. At the interview Claims 1 and 9 were specifically discussed. Photographs of the invention as depicted in Figs. 13 and 13A were shown. Proposed language was discussed to more particularly claim that the second ends are configured differently than the first ends so as not to engage the fence posts but, rather, fittingly fasten to each other. Arguments were advanced that the Nofziger reference did not possess this structure. Applicant's representative also indicated that a new independent claim would be presented in order to generically define the differences between the first and second ends of the panels. The Examiner indicated that he would consider the amended claims when presented for these distinguishing features.

Claims 6, 7, 13, and 14 were held withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention. However, it should be noted that under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 121 Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter. If generic claim 19 is deemed allowable,